

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image data output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising:

a mode selection unit for selecting a voice recording mode or a character recording mode;

a voice input unit for inputting a voice and outputting voice data representing the voice;

a voice recording controller for recording the voice data output from said voice input unit on the recording medium in response to a selection of the voice recording mode by said mode selection unit;

a character data generating unit for generating character data representing the voice data output from said voice input unit; and

a character recording controller for recording the character data generated by said character data generating unit on the recording medium in response to a selection of the character recording mode by said mode selection unit.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said voice input unit inputs the voice during the sensing of the image of a subject by the image sensing device, and said camera further comprising:

a first control unit for controlling said image recording controller, said voice recording controller and said character recording controller in such a manner that at least two of the image data, the voice data and the character data will be recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first reading unit for reading the image data and the character data that have been recorded on the recording medium;

a first combining unit for combining characters represented by the character data with an image represented by the image data that has been read by said first reading unit into a combined image data; and

a first display unit for displaying a combined image corresponding to the combined image data from said first combining unit.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a determination unit for determining whether the digital still camera has a voice output unit when playback is performed;

a second control unit, responsive to a determination by said determination unit that the camera has said voice output unit, for outputting the voice by the voice data to said voice output unit and halting display of characters represented by the character data; and

a third control unit, responsive to a determination by said determination unit that the camera does not have said voice output unit, for controlling a display unit so as to display the characters represented by the character data.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second reading unit for reading the character data that has been recorded on the recording medium;

a second display unit for displaying characters represented by the character data that has been read by said second reading unit; and

an erasure control unit responsive to an erase command for erasing the voice data corresponding to the characters being displayed on said second display unit from the recording medium.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said image recording controller records the image data output by said image sensing device in response to input of a predetermined voice to said voice input unit.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second combining unit for combining characters represented by the character data that has been generated by said character data generating unit with the image data output from said image sensing device into a combined image data; and

a fourth control unit for controlling said image recording controller and said character recording controller in such a manner that the combined image data will be recorded on the recording medium.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 7, further comprising:

a third reading unit for reading the combined image data from the recording medium; and

a second display unit for displaying a combined image represented by the combined image data that has been read by said third reading unit.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of controlling an operation of a digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording the image data output from the image sensing device on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

selecting a voice recording mode or a character recording mode;

inputting voice and obtaining voice data representing the voice;

recording the obtained voice data on the recording medium in response a selection of the voice recording mode in said step of selecting the voice recording mode or the character recording mode;

generating character data representing the obtained voice data; and

recording the generated character data on the recording medium in response to a selection of the voice recording mode in said step of selecting the voice recording mode or the character recording mode.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said voice input unit inputs the voice in response to a shutter release.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising a shutter release button, wherein said voice input unit inputs the voice in response to pressing of said shutter release button.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said voice input unit inputs the voice during the sensing of the image of the subject by the image sensing device, and said camera further comprising:

~~a character recording mode setting device for setting a character recording mode; and~~

a fifth control unit for controlling said image recording controller, said voice recording controller, and said character recording controller in such a manner that

the image data, the voice data, and the character data will be recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other in response to the character recording mode being set by said ~~character recording mode setting device~~ mode selection unit, and

the image data and the voice data will be recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other and the character data will not be recorded on the recording medium in response to the character recording mode not being set by said ~~character recording mode setting device~~ mode selection unit.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a determination unit for determining whether

all of the image data, the voice data, and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other, or

only the image data and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other;

a sixth control unit, in response to a determination by said determination unit that all of the image data, the voice data, and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other,

for controlling a voice output unit of the camera in such a manner that the voice represented by the voice data is output and

for controlling a display device in such a manner that the image represented by the image data and characters represented by the character data are output as a combined image; and

a seventh control unit, in response to a determination by said determination unit that only the image data and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other,

for controlling the voice output unit of the camera in such a manner that the voice represented by the voice data is output and

for controlling the display device in such a manner that the image represented by the image data is output.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said image sensing device, said image recording controller, said voice input unit, said voice recording controller, said character generating unit, and said character recording controller are integrated into a single physical device.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein the image data, the voice data, and the character data are recorded in a single file on the recording medium.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein the voice data and a combined image data representing a combination of the image data and the character data are recorded in a single file on the recording medium.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A digital camera, comprising:
a mode selection unit for selecting a voice recording mode or a text data recording mode;

an image sensing unit configured for sensing an image and outputting image data corresponding to the image;

a voice sensing unit configured for sensing a voice and outputting voice data corresponding to the voice in response to a selection of the voice recording mode by said mode selection unit;

a text data generating unit configured for generating text data corresponding to the voice data in response to a selection of the text data recording mode by said mode selection unit; and

a memory control unit configured to store the image data, the voice data, and the text data to a recording medium,

wherein a particular text data and the corresponding voice data are related to only one particular image data.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital camera of claim 17, wherein the memory control unit is configured to store the particular image data and the related text data and voice data as a single file in the recording medium.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital camera of claim 18, wherein the memory control unit is configured to read from the recording medium the image data and the related text data, the camera further comprising:

a combining unit configured for generating a combined image data by combining the image data and visual representations of the text data read from the recording medium; and

a display unit configured for displaying a combined image corresponding to the combined image data.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital camera of claim 19, wherein the memory control unit is configured to read from the recording medium the related voice data, the camera further comprising:

a voice output unit configured for outputting the voice corresponding to the related voice data read from the recording medium.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A digital camera, comprising:

an image sensing unit configured for sensing an image and outputting image data corresponding to the image;

a voice sensing unit configured for sensing a voice and outputting voice data corresponding to the voice;

a text data generating unit configured for generating text data corresponding to the voice data;

a combining unit configured for generating a combined image data by combining the image data and a visual representations of the text data; and

a memory control unit configured to store the combined image data and the voice data a recording medium,

wherein a particular voice data is related to only one particular combined image data.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital camera of claim 21, wherein the memory control unit is configured to store the particular combined image data and the related voice data as a single file in the recording medium.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital camera of claim 22, wherein the memory control unit is configured to read from the recording medium the combined image data, the camera further comprising:

a display unit configured for displaying a combined image corresponding to the combined image data.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital camera of claim 23, wherein the memory control unit is further configured to read from the recording medium the related voice data, the camera further comprising:

a voice output unit configured for outputting the voice corresponding to the related voice data read from the recording medium.

25. (NEW) A method of recording data related to image data, comprising:

recording voice data related the image data;

converting the voice data to text data;

converting the text data to character data, wherein the character data is a visual representation of the text data; and

recording the image data, the voice data, and the character data to a storage medium.

26. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein a file structure for recording includes an image data recording area, a character data recording area, and a voice data recording area and wherein the recording step comprises:

recording the image data in the image data recording area;

recording the character data in the character data recording area; and

recording the voice data in the voice data recording area.

27. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein a file structure for recording includes a combined image data recording area and a voice data recording and wherein the recording step comprises:

combining the image data and the character data into combined image data;

recording the combined image data in the combined image data recording area; and

recording the voice data in the voice data recording area.

28. (NEW) A method for playing back data recording in a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes a structure to record image data, character data related to the image data, and voice data related to the image data and wherein the related character data is a visual representation of text data corresponding to the related voice data, the method comprising:

determining if the related voice data is recorded in the storage medium;

outputting the related voice data only if it is determined that the related voice data is recorded in the storage medium; and

displaying only the image data or both the related character data and the image data based on the result of the step of determining if the related voice data is recorded in the storage medium.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

determining if the related character data is recorded in the storage medium if it is determined that the related voice data is recorded in the storage medium;

displaying both the related character data and the image data if it is determined that the related character data is recorded in the storage medium; and

displaying only the image data if it is determined that the related character data is not recorded in the storage medium.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of displaying both the related character data and the image data comprises:

combining the image data and the character data into combined image data; and

displaying the combined image data.

31. (NEW) The method of claim 28, further comprising displaying only the image data if it is determined that the related voice data is not recorded in the storage medium.

32. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein the image data and the related character are stored as a combined image data in the storage medium, and wherein the step of displaying both the related character data and the image data comprises displaying the combined image data.

33. (NEW) The method of claim 28, further comprising:
determining if a voice erase command has been issued; and
erasing the voice data if it is determined that the voice erase command
has been issued.

34. (NEW) A digital still camera having an image sensing device for
sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the
image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image
data output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium,
comprising:

a voice input unit to enable input of voice and to enable output of voice
data representing the voice;

a voice recording controller to enable recording the voice data output
from said voice input unit on the recording medium;

a character data generating unit to enable generating character data
representing the voice data output from said voice input unit, wherein the
character data are expressed in image form; and

a character recording controller to enable recording the character data
generated by said character data generating unit on the recording medium.

35. (NEW) A method of controlling an operation of a digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording the image data output from the image sensing device on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

inputting voice and obtaining voice data representing the voice;
recording the obtained voice data on the recording medium;
generating character data representing the obtained voice data, wherein the character data are expressed in image form; and
recording the generated character data on the recording medium.

36. (NEW) A digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image data output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising:

a voice input unit to enable input of voice and to enable output of voice data representing the voice;

a voice recording controller to enable recording the voice data output from said voice input unit on the recording medium;

a character data generating unit to enable generating character data representing the voice data output from said voice input unit;

a character recording controller to enable recording the character data generated by said character data generating unit on the recording medium;

a determination unit to enable determining whether the digital still camera has a voice output unit when playback is performed; and

a control unit, responsive to a determination by said determination unit that the camera has said voice output unit, to enable output of the voice represented by the voice data to said voice output unit and to enable halting display of characters represented by the character data.

37. (NEW) A digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image data output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising:

a voice input unit to enable input of voice and to enable output of voice data representing the voice;

a voice recording controller to enable recording the voice data output from said voice input unit on the recording medium;

a character data generating unit to enable generating character data representing the voice data output from said voice input unit;

a character recording controller to enable recording the character data generated by said character data generating unit on the recording medium;

a determination unit to enable determining whether the digital still camera has a voice output unit when playback is performed; and

a control unit, responsive to a determination by said determination unit that the camera does not have said voice output unit, to enable controlling a display unit so as to display characters represented by the character data.

38. (NEW) A digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image data output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising:

a voice input unit to enable input of voice and to enable output of voice data representing the voice;

a voice recording controller to enable recording the voice data output from said voice input unit on the recording medium;

a character data generating unit to enable generating character data representing the voice data output from said voice input unit;

a character recording controller to enable recording the character data generated by said character data generating unit on the recording medium;

a reading unit for reading the character data that has been recorded on the recording medium;

a display unit to enable displaying characters represented by the character data that has been read by said second reading unit; and

an erasure control unit responsive to an erase command for erasing the voice data corresponding to the characters being displayed on said display unit from the recording medium.

39. (NEW) A digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image data output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising:

a voice input unit to enable input of voice and to enable output of voice data representing the voice;

a voice recording controller to enable recording the voice data output from said voice input unit on the recording medium;

a character data generating unit to enable generating character data representing the voice data output from said voice input unit; and

a character recording controller to enable recording the character data generated by said character data generating unit on the recording medium,

wherein said image recording controller records the image data output by said image sensing device in response to input of a predetermined voice to said voice input unit.

40. (NEW) A digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image

data output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising:

a voice input unit to enable input of voice and to enable output of voice data representing the voice;

a voice recording controller to enable recording the voice data output from said voice input unit on the recording medium;

a character data generating unit to enable generating character data representing the voice data output from said voice input unit; and

a character recording controller to enable recording the character data generated by said character data generating unit on the recording medium;

a determination unit to enable determining whether

all of the image data, the voice data, and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other, or

only the image data and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other;

a first control unit, in response to a determination by said determination unit that all of the image data, the voice data, and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other,

to enable controlling a voice output unit of the camera in such a manner that the voice represented by the voice data is output, and

to enable controlling a display device in such a manner that the image represented by the image data and characters represented by the character data are output as a combined image; and

a second control unit, in response to a determination by said determination unit that only the image data and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other,

to enable controlling the voice output unit of the camera in such a manner that the voice represented by the voice data is output, and

to enable controlling the display device in such a manner that the image represented by the image data is output.